

RURAL DISTRICT OF
KIDDERMINSTER

ANNUAL REPORT
on the work of the
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
for the year
1968.

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health)

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for
1968.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tel. No.
KIDDERMINSTER 2237.

Land Oak House,
KIDDERMINSTER.

Chairman:-

COUNCILLOR A. E. HOBSON

Vice-Chairman:-

COUNCILLOR S. SPENCER

COUNCILLOR J. E. BAZLEY

" H. S. BERESFORD

" C. BLOUNT

" H. DOOLITTLE

" J. T. HARDY

" H. E. HICKTON

" H. HINGLEY, J.P.

" DR. H. H. B. LAMB

" J. PAGE

" J. POWICK

" E. SMITH

" M. W. STAITE, M.B.E.

" C.E. TALBOT

" J. W. WARDLE, M.B.E., J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer:

R. S. PORTER, Cert. S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant: C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk:

MRS. I. M. MANN

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer: E. LEE.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the
year 1968.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,769
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid 1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,640
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,454
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£447,072
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,692

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the District are engaged in
agriculture and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed
in industry in neighbouring towns and a number of males are employed at
an Iron Works in the District.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:

				<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Total.
(a)	Live Births:				
	Legitimate	68	85	153	170
	Illegitimate	8	5	13	15
	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			13.1	12.5
	Birth Rate for England and Wales			13.1	14.8
	Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live Births			7.8	8.1
(b)	Still Births:				
	Legitimate	-	6	6	2
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	-
	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Births			34.8	10.8
	Still Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total Births			35	11
	Total Live and Still Births	76	96	172	187

DEATHS:

			<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total.</u>
(a) Number registered for District	66	56	122	118
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			9.6	9.5
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.9	9.5
(b) Maternal Mortality			0	0
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and Still Births			0	0
Maternal Mortality rate for England and Wales			0.24	0.20
(c) Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)				
Legitimate	-	-	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births			-	16.2
Infant Mortality (under 1 year) rate per 1,000 Live Births for England and Wales			18.0	16.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births			0	17.6
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births			0	66.6
(d) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks				
Legitimate	-	-	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total Live Births			0	5.4
Neo-natal Mortality Rate for England and Wales			12.4	12.5

			<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
(f)	Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births).			34.8
				16.0
	Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births) for England and Wales			35.0
				16.0

Causes of Infants Deaths:

N I L.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
B5. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-
B6. Other Tuberculosis, incl. late effects	1	-
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	3
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	6	-
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	6
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	1
B19(5) Leukaemia	-	1
B19(6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	8	4
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	2
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	20	10
B29 Other forms of Heart Disease	1	6
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	6	12
B46(5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	1
B31 Influenza	1	-
B32 Pneumonia	5	1
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	2
B46(6) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-
B34 Peptic Ulcer	2	-
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1
B46(7) Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1
B46(8) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1
B46(10) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	2	-
B45 Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	1	1
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1
BE48 All Other Accidents	2	-
BE49 Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	1	1
BE50 All Other External Causes	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Total all causes.</u>	66	56

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, and of Mrs. I. M. Mann as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For infectious diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board and operates from Hayley Green.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, the operational headquarters of which are based at the County Medical Officer of Health's Offices at Love's Grove, Worcester - telephone numbers Worcester 21611/5.

The ambulance station at Kidderminster operates a fully manned twenty-four hour service.

Nursing at Home.

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the area - at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown and Gorst Hill, where immunisation and vaccination are carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the area.

The Doctor is in attendance at the clinics on the following days:-

Far Forest	- 2nd Tuesday even months
Gorst Hill	- 2nd Wednesday odd months
Wolverley	- 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month
Cookley	- 2nd and 4th Friday each month
Blakedown	- 4th Thursday each month
Wribbenhall	- 4th Tuesday each month
Chaddesley Corbett	- 1st Thursday each month

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster General Hospital is available for all residents in our area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to 'All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives.

For Infectious Diseases the isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

For maternity cases beds are available at The Croft Maternity Hospital, Kidderminster and the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, Stourport-on-Severn, and for those requiring admission to hospital, All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where necessary. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6-30 p.m., Wednesday at 10-0 a., and Thursday at 2-0 p.m., at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for prevention and after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Subcommittee.

Venereal Disease.

Facilities are available at:-

Worcester Royal Infirmary - Mondays, Tuesdays
and Fridays.

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton - Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays.

Dudley Guest Hospital - Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Fridays and Saturdays.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The major water supply in this District is obtained from the North West Worcestershire Water Board, with whom the closest contact is maintained. Results of the analyses of samples taken from both mains and local supplies are shared.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 33 samples of water from the main sources of supply for the area for bacteriological examination. All but 6 of the samples were satisfactory.

Water Supplies to Houses in the Rural District.

Parish	From Public Mains - Number of Premises.	From Private Supplies, e.g. Wells, Springs, etc. - Number of Premises.	Total.
Wolverley	1436	4	1440
Upper Arley	303	15	318
Ribbesford	28	4	32
Churchill & Blakedown	511	-	511
Rock	662	18	680
Broome	106	2	108
Stone	196	9	205
Rushock	54	2	56
Kidderminster Foreign	366	20	386
Chaddesley Corbett	525	14	539
Totals	4187	88	4275

Percentage of Houses connected to the Public Mains - 98%

Drainage and Sewerage.

With further development occurring in this area the urgency of an adequate sewerage scheme is even more apparent and the Council are strongly recommended to proceed with this.

Blakedown.

I must emphasize the urgent necessity for new plant at these disposal works.

HOUSING.

(a) Action under Housing Act during the year.

Number of Houses represented for Demolition Orders	...	5
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	5
Number of houses represented for Closing Orders	...	NIL
Number of Closing Orders made (whole house)	...	NIL
Number of Closing Orders made (part of a building)	...	NIL
Number of Closing Orders changed to Demolition Orders		NIL
Undertakings not to use house accepted	...	1
Undertakings to repair house accepted	...	NIL
Number of houses actually demolished during the year	...	NIL
Number of persons displaced	...	NIL

(b) Public Health Act.

Houses in which defects were remedied:

After informal action by Local Authority	...	141
After formal action by Local Authority	...	NIL

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary Notices served	...	93
Statutory Notices served	...	NIL

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

No serious overcrowding has come to light during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Our efforts to persuade all parents to bring their children for immunisation continued as before.

129 children under five years of age and 86 children from five to fifteen years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 154 were given booster doses.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

During the year 83 persons were vaccinated and 3 were re-vaccinated.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1968 are set out in the following table:-

AGE IN YEARS.										No. of cases admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths.
Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Total No. of Cases	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	4	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	2	-	12	-	-	-	14	-
Measles	5	12	20	33	26	71	-	-	-	167	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Totals	15	12	20	37	26	85	-	2	1	188	-

Tuberculosis.

One new case of Tuberculosis was notified during during 1968 and there were two deaths from the disease.

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1959.

There are twelve factories in the District. Conditions of employment are very satisfactory and the owners co-operate to the full with your Health Department.

Part 1 of the Act.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.
Factories in which Sections 1., 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	12	19

No defects were found during the year.

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork.

Sections 110 and 111.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers in August list	Section 110 No. of cases of default in sending lists.	No. of Prosecutions.
Making of wearing apparel	1	Nil	Nil

There is only one person employed on Outwork, viz., glove knitting in her own home and conditions are ideal.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Two slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS.	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed	52	Nil	Nil	1427	473
Number inspected	52	Nil	Nil	1412	452
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.

Pneumonia	...	12 lbs
Necrosis	...	19 lbs
Total		<u>31 lbs</u>

MILK.

The premises used for this trade which come under the jurisdiction of the Council have given no cause for complaint.

OTHER FOODS.

The following details show the position with regard to food premises.

Type.	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Acts.	Inspections.
General Provisions	47	-	128
Cafes	9	-	34
Hotels and other Licensed Premises	35	-	121
Works Canteens	1	-	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	6
Ice Cream Retailers	42	42	48

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Number of unexpired Licences in force ... 7

Bakehouses.

Number on Register December 1968 ... 2

Inspections ... 4

Contraventions Remedied.

Limewashing ... 2

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The improvement in the collection of refuse has been continued and 1377 loads were tipped on the controlled tip at Caunsall.

Cesspool Emptying.

1060 loads have been dealt with from houses not on the Council's sewers. These loads have been sprayed on to farm land in the Area. There is an ever increasing need for farmers to come forward to allow their land to be used for the purpose which can be very beneficial.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

The Kidderminster Rural District is such that many thousands of holiday makers spend considerable periods in caravans throughout the District. Up to the moment thirty sites comprising 604 caravans are licensed and facilities have been provided in accordance with the Model Standards.

It is pleasing to be able to record that owners and occupiers of sites have faced up to their responsibilities and shown every co-operation.

A close touch has been maintained with the Worcester City and County Fire Brigade and their suggestions with regard to fire fighting arrangements have been adopted.

The caravan dwellers themselves, are, almost without exception, a good type who take pride in the maintenance of their caravans and sites. In several instances Sites Committees have been set up and these Committees have maintained the closest contact with the Council and its officials.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Particulars of visits and inspections are as follows:-

Housing Inspection (Public Health & Housing Acts)	794
Caravans and Moveable dwellings	652
Premises where animals are kept	62
Schools	8
Water Courses	141
Water Supply	160
Miscellaneous	1920

SANITARY WORK.

Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants	3
Verminous houses dealt with	Nil

Drainage.

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	241
Defective drains repaired	41

Water Closets.

Foul and obstructed water closets cleansed	41
Water closets repaired	53

Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	208
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RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Infestation Orders, 1943.

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

Number of infestations dealt with	551
Number of complaints received	286

HOUSING.

A further 9 houses were erected during the year making a total of 960 since the war. A further 13 are in course of erection.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year?

The work shown in the foregoing report could only have been successfully carried out with the loyal support of all the officers of the Health Department and I herewith pay tribute to their services.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

